

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15101

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJECT: SECVISIT LONDON - BIOGRAPHIC DATA

REF: LONDON 15099

1. DENIS HEALEY, CHANCELLOR OF EXCHEQUER - AS CHANCELLOR, HEALEY WILL BE IN CHARGE OF ARRANGING ANY FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS GROWING OUT OF RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT, BOTH WITHIN TREASURY AND IN HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE. A LABOR MODERATE, WITH A STRONG DESIRE TO SUCCEED CALLAGHAN AS LEADER OF THE LABOR PARTY, HEALEY HAS A FIRST-RATE MIND AND EXCELS IN TOUGH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. HE WORKS WELL WITH CALLAGHAN AND WILL BE A KEY FIGURE IN GAINING PARLIAMENT'S APPROVAL OF ANY RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

2. MICHAEL FOOT, LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL - AS LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND DE FACTO DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOR PARTY, FOOT TOO WILL PLAY VITAL ROLE IN GAINING COMMONS' APPROVAL OF A SETTLEMENT. A LONG-TIME LEFT-WINGER, FOOT HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF FOR HIS LOYALTY, FIRST, TO WILSON AND, NOW, TO CALLAGHAN. HIS VIEWS CARRY GREAT WEIGHT WITH LABOR'S LEFT-WING AND HIS SKILL IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE IS PROBABLY UNEQUALLED.

3. LORD ELWYN-JONES, LORD CHANCELLOR - ELWYN JONES IS
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THE GOVERNMENT'S SENIOR LAW OFFICER. HIS INCLUSION IS

CLEARLY RELATED TO THE POTENTIAL CONSTITUTIONAL AND
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF A SETTLEMENT. HE IS ALSO SPEAKER
OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND WILL PLAY A KEY PART IN OBTAIN-
ING LORDS' APPROVAL OF ANY SETTLEMENT. A LABOR PARTY
MODERATE AND FORMER MP, ELWYN-JONES IS 67.

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